

Filed for intro on 02/12/98

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 525  
By Patton

A RESOLUTION memorializing Congress to enact the Medicare  
Venipuncture Fairness Act.

WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 2912 of the 105<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress was introduced in 1997 to reinstate payments under Medicare for home health services relating to venipuncture for the express purpose of obtaining blood samples; and

WHEREAS, the legislation also requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to study potential fraud and abuse under the Medicare program with respect to such services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services study calls for an examination of critical aspects of the Medicare program as it pertains to venipuncture services, along with the cost to beneficiaries if payment under the Medicare program is prohibited for such home health services; and

WHEREAS, the Department is also directed under the legislation to determine the costs to states through the potentially increased use of personal care services and nursing home placements as a result of Medicare not covering venipuncture procedures; and

WHEREAS, such services are vitally important in the diagnosis and treatment of many catastrophic illnesses, which if left undetected will result in increased future Medicare expenditures; and

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WHEREAS, as citizens of this country continue to be unreasonably burdened by spiraling medical costs, the availability of adequate medical care is critical to their well-being; and it is incumbent upon the members of this legislative body to express our unflagging support for this significant legislation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this General Assembly hereby memorializes the U.S. Congress to act expeditiously to enact the Medicare Venipuncture Fairness Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this General Assembly memorializes each member of the U.S. Congress from Tennessee to utilize the full measure of his or her influence to effect the enactment of the Medicare Venipuncture Fairness Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the President and the Secretary of the U.S. Senate; the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to each member of the Tennessee delegation to the U.S. Congress.